



State of Wisconsin
Department of Public Instruction
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Burmaster announces Advisory Council on Charter Schools

Council will help ensure strong, accountable charter schools

MADISON—State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster announced formation of the State Superintendent's Advisory Council on Charter Schools. The advisory council was created to develop and support exemplary charter schools that increase student achievement and educational options for parents and children.

"The advisory council will provide support related to a range of programs, services, and strategies to help establish strong, accountable charter schools," said Burmaster. "Their leadership and counsel will increase opportunities for academic success for all children through the development of innovative charter schools that provide high-quality educational alternatives."

Council members will serve staggered three-year terms with an option for another consecutive term. They will advise the Department of Public Instruction about ongoing Wisconsin Charter School Program areas and activities. Their mission will include review of new state charter grant applications and the formulation of recommendations to the state superintendent. General responsibilities will include:

- Assisting in the identification and prioritization of charter school community needs for staff development and informational resources.
- Recommending procedures for the dissemination of charter school information and provision of related training.
- Reviewing procedures and criteria for determination of state charter grant approvals.
- Reviewing charter school projects for the state superintendent's consideration.
- Reviewing outcomes of charter school projects approved and funded.

(more)

- Strengthening the department’s federal grant application, review the charter grant program progress, and project outcomes.
- Reviewing and recommending charter school policies for the state superintendent’s consideration.

Representation on the advisory council includes parents, teachers, school district administrators, school board members, charter school operators, university staff, charter school board governance representatives, and others interested in developing and supporting high-quality charter schools. “The participation of these knowledgeable experts in this process adds a valuable perspective for selecting potential charter school candidates and strengthening existing charter school programs,” said Burmaster.

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ATTACHMENT: A list of members of the State Superintendent’s Advisory Council on Charter Schools follows.

State Superintendent's Advisory Council on Charter Schools

Connie Biedron, Principal
Blair-Taylor Elementary Schools

Mike Kuehne, Principal
Academy for International Studies, Janesville

Dawn Blurton, Teacher
Milwaukee Public Schools

Diane Lang, Teacher
Appleton School District

Karen Bowen, School Board Member
Oshkosh School District

Jammie Orth, Teacher
Tremper High School, Kenosha

Susan Danko, Teacher
Fritsche Middle School, Milwaukee Public Schools

Steve Patz, District Administrator
Chilton School District

Kris Diener, Principal
IQ Academy, Waukesha School District

Nina Sarenac, New Berlin
Teacher, Whitnall School District

Tim Gavigan, Director
Cooperative Educational Service
Agency 1, Brookfield

Nichole Schweitzer, Principal
Wisconsin Connections Academy
Appleton Area School District

Mark Hansen, Principal
South High School, Waukesha

Marcia Spector, Executive Director
Veritas High School
Seeds of Health, Inc., Milwaukee

Holly Hart, Charter School Administrator
Eau Claire School District

Gerry A. Traxler, Teacher
D.C. Everest School District

Barbara Horton, Executive Director
Darrell Lynn Hines Charter School, Milwaukee

Paul Vine, Superintendent
Rice Lake Area School District

Ronn Johnson, Executive Director
YMCA Young Leaders Academy, Milwaukee

Cindy Zautke, Charter School Specialist
Institute for the Transformation
of Learning, Milwaukee

Tamara R. Johnson, Wales
Teacher, Kettle Moraine School District

Gary Zerbach, Principal
Nuestro Mundo Charter School, Madison